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OUR QUEST FOR LOVE

A popular song proclaims, *“What the world needs is love, sweet love... not just for some, but for everyone.”* This is so true yet the kind of love that the world needs is rare indeed for what we call love comes short of the true, pure, abiding love that the world needs. Once upon a time, Eve and Adam knew the real thing; they had a direct connection with God. When they were cast out of the garden, they entered the realm of sin and death and their connection with true love was discontinued. Indeed, they totally lost connection between themselves and all that is of the truth. From that time on, everything became a delusion, a counterfeit of the true. By the Spirit, we know that the garden of Eden we speak of, is not a plot of earth somewhere in Mesopotamia; the garden we are speaking of is our inner being of spirit and soul. This is where we find the two trees and where the woman and man chose the tree of knowledge of good and evil, (the carnal mind), over the tree of life, (Christ). Christ is the anointed One who is the source of life; He has the ability to connect our consciousness to the Spirit of God. Christ is the key to our transformation which is the renewing of our minds, for He is our new mind. *“And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.”* (Rom. 12:2) Although the Adam man was called a “son of God,” he never ate of the tree of life, therefore he could not attain his potential as a son; in his darkness, he could not find the true God, and he could not taste of true love. Knowing God, (not just about God), is the key to true love and to eternal life. It is the blood of the Lamb, Jesus, who redeems us, or buys back our soul and spirit; Jesus is the door, He is our Way for us to re-enter our garden within; He is the Spirit of truth that leads us into all truths, and He is the life, for He is revealing the Father to us, that we might know Him and have eternal life. *“And this is life eternal, that they might know the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”* (Jn.17:3) Through the sacrifice of the blood of Jesus Christ, we are finding our connection with the inner Christ, who is the tree of life within.

Our souls have been yearning to partake of the tree of life. Humanity has been on a quest to defeat death; whether through medicine, proper eating or exercises, we all want to live better and longer lives. We admire anyone who makes it past 100 and is still doing well. Our souls are hungry for the fruit of the tree of life. The tree is still in the garden, it was never taken away, but its access was barred from us, until through the flaming sword of His cross, Jesus opened the way. When the resurrected Lord appeared to John, He spoke this to His church, *“Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.”* (Rev.2:4) The word “first” here means foremost. The Lord was talking about the love that takes precedence over every other love. We certainly have known other kinds of love, but the most important love is God’s love for us, and our love for God and the things of God. The first commandment says, *“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”* (Matt.23:37). We can be sure that it will be so. By God’s grace, “We shall love...” Of themselves, men have never been able to achieve this, yet in times of great distress, we have seen this love at work with heroic deeds. However, this supernatural love was given for the moment; it was not the abiding love we really need. We all know that deep down, our souls yearn to love and be loved; this also is our need to know God. From the depth of his heart, David uttered, *“As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for*

God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God.” (Ps.42:1-2) We will know true abiding love when we fully know God; until then, we know His love in measure; our quest for true love is actually our quest to know God. In the world of darkness, the soul has found many pleasures, but they have left her mostly empty, disillusioned and finally grieved and abandoned. Our soul is being entertained by all kinds of interesting devices which are only lures to keep her away from seeking the true God. Moses wisely chose “...to suffer with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.” (Heb.11:25) The pleasures of this world only last a season, and they are addictive; they keep us in a constant state of craving. Mankind has fallen in love with the world and the things of this world, while remaining oblivious of the vast kingdom of spirit that surrounds him; man has accepted sin and death as a necessary and normal part of his life.

John writes, “*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*” (I Jn. 2:15-16) While the world capitalizes on finding ways to entertain our souls, the faithful Spirit of God works continually to woo us unto Himself and draw us away from our attachments to the world. Note that many devices are very useful, but much of what they are used for is a snare to waste our time.

Jesus declared that His disciples would be known by their love, “*By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*” (Jn.13:35) This is the love that covers a multitude of sins. “*Hatred stirreth up strifes; but love covers all sins.*” (Prov.10:12) This love looks beyond our differences of doctrines, personalities, nationalities and all the petty things that we use to find fault with our brothers and sisters. Because of His work within, we are beginning to know Him, and our love for one another is improving.

“I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.” (Isa.61:10) This prophecy is all about love; marriage is all about love, it is love that draws a bridegroom and a bride together, and love is the energy that drives them to do all the preparations for the wedding. In a recent dream, “*I was very much in love with this man, and he loved me very much also. We were going to be married, but first he needed to bring me to his father for approval. He brought me to this vast and very beautiful estate and stood a few feet away while I waited for his father. Then the father came and stood behind me. I could not see him, but he put his arms around my waist and held me. I could only see the legs of the man I loved standing nearby and my heart was filled with love for him. Then the father looked at me as if questioning me without words. With his arms still around my waist, he rocked me gently and said, “I know that you truly love my son and so you have my approval.” End of dream.*”

When our soul has found true love for the Bridegroom, (the Word), He takes us through one last test before this union is final and consummated. By one last gentle shaking, the Father measures whether our love for His son is true and abiding. He holds our back, and by shaking us gently He sees that we are sincere. Jesus said, I go to my Father’s house to prepare a place for you, that where I am, there you may be also. He has been preparing our souls to enter the Father’s house, and the day of this final approval is at hand. I have found that when the Lord sends His Word through a dream, it is in progress and will surely come to pass. Oh happy Day! Be encouraged.

Because He is love, *Jackie Caporaso*